

From: Donald E. Knox
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Antitrust Case

I think the government should take a look at the AOL, Apple, and Netscape practices before they make a final ruling in the anti-trust case against Microsoft.

AOL, Netscape and Time Warner have teamed up to dry the government into their corner. Microsoft may have integrated the IE browser in to the operating system, but why is that bad. People still have the choice of browser, they can use the Netscape browser if they wish. I recently bought a new computer and it had Netscape installed. Over the years I have purchased many computers for my company and most of the laptop systems came with Netscape installed.

Microsoft has "On Lines Services" in the "Add Remove Programs" for anyone to install an On Line service of their choice, yes AOL is there - so is Prodigy, CompuServe (AOL), and a few other that not quite as popular.

Microsoft has as much right to define their operating system as does Apple. Microsoft has been in the business of making computing more fun and easier. I think to great extent that has been accomplished, just look at the number of people that have computer today. Apple computers had a big edge in the 80's but software companies didn't right business functional programs for the Apple computer systems.

The primary reason Microsoft was able to gain so much popularity was Novell's purchase and dismantling of Word Perfect and Group Wise. Had Novell been able to maintain the market share, 80%+, then Microsoft would not have been able to move into the application as strong as it did. Novell stripped the messaging software and Unix knowledge from the Word Perfect company before it sold the rest to Corel.

In my view Microsoft has done more for the software industry than most any other company I can think of. The products are not always "best of bread" but they sure do a pretty decent job of making work easier.

Don Knox, MCSE
don.knox@linderco.com
813-359-5253